

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A method, in a server computer, for chaining applications, the method comprising:

storing in a properties file a service name that identifies a service associated with a chaining module and an option that associates the service name with a series of applications;

receiving a request from a requesting application for the service;

parsing the properties file to identify the series of applications and to determine a last application in the series of applications;

activating the chaining module to issue a request to each application within the series of applications, in order, and to pass an output of each application to an input of the next application in the series until an output of the last application in the series of applications is received by the chaining module; and

responsive to receiving an output of the last application in the series of applications at the chaining module, returning the output of the last application to the requesting application as a result of the service.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a customer verification application

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein a second application in the series of applications is a natural language translation engine.

24. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 21~~ A method, in a server computer, for chaining applications, the method comprising:

storing in a properties file a service name that identifies a service associated with a chaining module and an option that associates the service name with a series of applications;

receiving a request from a requesting application for the service;

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parsing the properties file to identify the series of applications and to determine a last application in the series of applications;

activating the chaining module to issue a request to each application within the series of applications, in order, and to pass an output of each application to an input of the next application in the series until an output of the last application in the series of applications is received by the chaining module; and

responsive to receiving an output of the last application in the series of applications at the chaining module, returning the output of the last application to the requesting application as a result of the service, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a first natural language translation engine that translates an input from a first natural language to a second natural language and wherein a second application in the series of applications is a second natural language translation engine that translates an input from the natural second language to a third natural language.

25. (Previously presented) An apparatus in a server computer comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory has stored therein computer usable program code for chaining applications, wherein the computer usable program code is executable on the processor to:

store in a properties file a service name that identifies a service associated with a chaining module and an option that associates the service name with a series of applications;

receive a request from a requesting application for the service;

parse the properties file to identify the series of applications and to determine a last application in the series of applications;

activate the chaining module to issue a request to each application within the series of applications, in order, and to pass an output of each application to an input of the next application in the series until an output of the last application in the series of applications is received by the chaining module; and

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responsive to receiving an output of the last application in the series of applications at the chaining module, return the output of the last application to the requesting application as a result of the service.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a customer verification application

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein a second application in the series of applications is a natural language translation engine.

28. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 25~~ An apparatus in a server computer comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory has stored therein computer usable program code for chaining applications, wherein the computer usable program code is executable on the processor to:

store in a properties file a service name that identifies a service associated with a chaining module and an option that associates the service name with a series of applications;

receive a request from a requesting application for the service;

parse the properties file to identify the series of applications and to determine a last application in the series of applications;

activate the chaining module to issue a request to each application within the series of applications, in order, and to pass an output of each application to an input of the next application in the series until an output of the last application in the series of applications is received by the chaining module; and

responsive to receiving an output of the last application in the series of applications at the chaining module, return the output of the last application to the requesting application as a result of the service, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a first natural language translation engine that translates an input from a first natural language to a second natural language and wherein a second application in

the series of applications is a second natural language translation engine that translates an input from the natural second language to a third natural language.

29. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer usable program code for chaining applications, the computer usable program code comprising:

computer usable program code for storing in a properties file a service name that identifies a service associated with a chaining module and an option that associates the service name with a series of applications;

computer usable program code for receiving a request from a requesting application for the service;

computer usable program code for parsing the properties file to identify the series of applications and to determine a last application in the series of applications;

computer usable program code for activating the chaining module to issue a request to each application within the series of applications, in order, and to pass an output of each application to an input of the next application in the series until an output of the last application in the series of applications is received by the chaining module; and

computer usable program code, responsive to receiving an output of the last application in the series of applications at the chaining module, for returning the output of the last application to the requesting application as a result of the service.

30. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a customer verification application

31. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein a second application in the series of applications is a natural language translation engine.

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32. (Currently amended) ~~The computer program product of claim 29~~ A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer usable program code for chaining applications, the computer usable program code comprising:

computer usable program code for storing in a properties file a service name that identifies a service associated with a chaining module and an option that associates the service name with a series of applications;

computer usable program code for receiving a request from a requesting application for the service;

computer usable program code for parsing the properties file to identify the series of applications and to determine a last application in the series of applications;

computer usable program code for activating the chaining module to issue a request to each application within the series of applications, in order, and to pass an output of each application to an input of the next application in the series until an output of the last application in the series of applications is received by the chaining module;  
and

computer usable program code, responsive to receiving an output of the last application in the series of applications at the chaining module, for returning the output of the last application to the requesting application as a result of the service, wherein a first application in the series of applications is a first natural language translation engine that translates an input from a first natural language to a second natural language and wherein a second application in the series of applications is a second natural language translation engine that translates an input from the natural second language to a third natural language.

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